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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Shortage of Chemicals and Chemical Supplies	DATE DISTR.	29 April 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- Borax remains one of the main bottlenecks in the East German chemical supply. As of 25 February 1955, six tons of borax were enroute from the Aldax firm in Hamburg. This borax was being shipped via the Chemische Fabrik Billwaerder A.G.
 - Because of the shortage of borax, the Keramische Werke Boizenburg was forced to close down its three kilns (Brennoefen). These kilns will have to be relined before they are put back in operation.
 - Ten tons of tin oxide [] were expected to be delivered [] however, there were difficulties in obtaining an export license. Also hoped for were imports of red lead. It was hoped that the shortage of tin oxide would be alleviated at the Leipzig Fair.
 - Incandescent light globes (for street lamps) were urgently needed for lighting the city for the Leipzig Fair. Nine thousand globes were enroute [] as of 25 February 1955. The annual demand for this item in East Germany is about 945,000 globes. Imports of this item from Czechoslovakia are poor and chiefly unusable.
 - It is now possible for East German industry to obtain argon gas in sufficient quantities from VEB Sauerstoffwerk Oxyka Berlin, which has an annual production of 8,000 cu.m. of crude argon. Thereby, the demand of the Berliner Gluehlampenwerk is covered, and import of argon is no longer necessary. VEB Sauerstoffwerk Oxyka also produces 300 liters of spectrally pure argon annually.
 - The import of thorium, which in 1954 amounted to 6 tons, has been cancelled for 1955.
1. [] Comment: As received. Possibly Otto Aldag, Oele, Fette Chemikalien, Oberstrasse 10, Hamburg 10.

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